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the clinical studies which cannot furnish reliable generalizations. The problem is to discover how far tendencies to tuberculosis and insanity are inherited. The population of prisons is taken because it represents a random selection and because it can be studied under conditions which can be fairly well controlled. The method of investigation and calculation deserves attention. Only certain provisional conclusions of the author can be presented.

Tubercular diathesis is inherited and at the same rate as all other physical characters in man. The prevalence of tuberculosis in the population lies between 8 per cent and 10 per cent. In the class dealt with there is no evidence of marital infection, and the incidence of phthisis in both husband and wife may be due to assortative mating. There is no definite evidence that the correlation between parents and offspring is greater in the poorer classes. The importance of the hereditary factor as opposed to direct contagion is supported by the facts (1) that the prevalence of phthisis among children of infected mothers is not appreciably greater than it is among children of infected fathers; (2) that the prevalence of phthisis among workers exposed to constant infection in a consumption hospital has been found to be not significantly greater than among individuals with the same degree of diathesis in the general population. The insane diathesis is certainly inherited.

C. R. HENDERSON

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*Social Insurance, a Program of Social Reform.* By HENRY ROGERS SEAGER. New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. 175. \$1.00.

Professor Seager has presented in readable style the essential points of the argument for social insurance: the theoretical basis in ethical considerations, the economic interest, and the practicability of tested systems. Much of the volume is devoted to summarizing well-known materials; but the critical examination of the American old-age-pension schemes, of the English compensation law, of methods of unemployment insurance, of sickness insurance deserve special attention. The book is an excellent introduction to the whole theory of social legislation, is sane and adapted to the general understanding.

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